Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTE ON COMET *b* 1916 (WOLF).

For the benefit of those following this comet by means of the ephemeris published in the Lick Observatory Bulletin No. 295, I give herewith the results of the comparison of some positions of the comet observed by Professor E. E. Barnard at the Yerkes Observatory with the ephemeris. These comparisons are given in the sense Observation minus Computation (Ephemeris):

1917 Gr. M. T.				O − C	
			$\Delta\alpha$	$\cos\delta\Delta\alpha$	$\Delta\delta$
June 9	18^h	43^m	$+1^s.7$	$+1^s.6$	+11″
July 7	18	11	+3.9	+3.6	+21
July 14	20	13	+4.4	+4.0	+20
Aug. 4	21	25	+6.4	+5.9	+22
Aug. 22	19	41	+7.2	+7.0	+20
Aug. 28	17	4	+7.4	+7.2	+11
Aug. 30	18	59	+7.6	+7.4	+18

Berkeley Astronomical Department,
September 13, 1917.

R. T. CRAWFORD.

THE PARALLAX OF THE RING NEBULA IN LYRA (N. G. C. 6720)

Exposures of 25 or 30 minutes on this object, made at the equivalent 80-foot focus of the 60-inch reflector of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, show images of the central star which are well suited to accurate measurement. Fourteen exposures taken from August, 1916, to August, 1917, have been measured and reduced in order to derive the parallax, 9 stars being used for comparison purposes. The result is

$$\text{Relative } \pi = +0''.002 \pm 0''.005.$$

The absolute parallax accordingly would be +0″.004. This value points to enormous dimensions for the nebula itself; the major and minor axes would be 330 and 250 times the diameter of the orbit of *Neptune*. Adopting 14.1 as the visual magnitude of the central star, the parallax found here gives a very low value for its absolute magnitude, viz., +7.1.

In this connection we may recall the results for the planetary nebula N. G. C. 7662, for which 16 Mount Wilson plates gave an absolute parallax of +0″.023. The corresponding diameter of the nebula is 19 times the diameter of the orbit of *Neptune*, and the absolute magnitude of its central star, +9.3.

The first parallax derived for the ring nebula in Lyra was that published by Dr. Newkirk in 1902. His result, derived from 15 photographs taken with the 10½ inch refractor of the Observatory of the University of Minnesota, was +0″.101 ± 0″.017. Later, however, Dr. Newkirk measured a set of 90 plates taken with the Crossley reflector of the Lick Observatory and the result derived by him from this valuable material points to a very small parallax. See *Popular Astronomy*, *25*, 373, 1917.

A. VAN MAANEN.

A BRIGHT VARIABLE STAR IN N. G. C. 6779 (MESSIER 56)

A variable star that is apparently of the Cepheid type has been found in the globular cluster N. G. C. 6779 from an examination of plates taken by Mr. Shapley and Mr. Pease. The position with respect to the center of the cluster is

$$\Delta\alpha = +1^s.7, \qquad \Delta\delta = +1' \, 30''$$

Referred to the Polar Standards, the observed range of photographic magnitude is from 14.43 to 15.20. The photovisual magnitude near maximum is 13.3, giving a color-index of +1.1. At maximum the variable is one of the two or three brightest stars of the cluster, and is probably of very high luminosity. No other variable is known in this system.

HELEN DAVIS.

NOVAE IN SPIRAL NEBULAE

1. In the course of making long-exposure photographs of the larger spiral nebulae with the 60-inch reflector, for the measurement of internal rotation and proper motion, fine negatives of the spiral H. IV 76 Cephei (N. G. C. 6946) were secured on the following dates:

1910, August 4, Exposure 4 hours,
1915, August 12, 13, 14, Exposure 6¾ hours,
1916, June 28, 29, 30, Exposure 9¾ hours,
1917, July 19, Exposure 4½ hours.

Large numbers of nebulous stars or points, and groups of them, are present in the branches of this spiral, as is the case in most of the larger spirals. On the south side one branch with its nebulous stars can be traced to a distance of 4½ minutes of arc from the nucleus, while on the north side a branch is shown to a distance of 5 minutes of arc.

In the inner and brighter parts of the spiral are two principal branches. In the southern one of these, lying centrally with